

# Italy reports 41 new coronavirus deaths, bringing toll to 148

March 5 2020

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Italy on Thursday reported 41 new deaths from the novel coronavirus, its highest single-day total to date, bringing the number of fatalities in Europe's most affected country to 148.

The number of cases also jumped by a new high of 769, reaching 3,858 over the past two weeks.

The latest figures mean Italy has the second-most deaths behind China, where the new virus was first detected at the end of last year.

All of Italy's 22 regions have now been affected, with the data showing the virus had reached the Aosta Valley on the French border.

The number of COVID-19 patients receiving [intensive care](#) also rose to 351 from 295 on Wednesday.

The government has unveiled a series of unprecedented measures aimed at stemming the virus' accelerating spread.

All schools and universities have been closed until March 15, keeping 8.5 million students at home.

Football matches and other [sporting events](#) will be played without fans for a month, and 11 villages with 50,000 residents remain under quarantine for a second week.

The government on Thursday also unveiled a 7.5-billion-euro (\$8.4-billion) economic rescue plan to deal with the impact of the [new virus](#).

The stimulus package will be used primarily to "increase the resources intended for the health services, civil protection and law enforcement," Italian Finance Minister Roberto Gualtieri said.

The money will also help "support incomes (of families) and "support measures for the businesses and sectors ... impacted by the containment measures," Gualtieri said.

The stimulus will force the government to raise its 2020 deficit by 0.3 percent of [gross domestic product](#).

Rome has already informed the European Commission in Brussels about the extra deficit spending.

Italian officials have said they expect Brussels to approve the move, which it must under the 27-nation EU bloc's strict budget rules for member states.

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